

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were previously pending in this application. Claims 2, 8 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 11 and 13-19 have been amended, and Claim 20 has been added. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2-7, 9, 11-19 have been deemed to contain allowable subject matter but have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate Claim 2, which has been considered to be allowable. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 instead of Claim 2, which is now canceled. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form by directly incorporating the subject matter of former independent Claim 1 and Claim 8. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from amended Claim 11 instead of Claim 8, which is now canceled. Support for these amendments is found throughout the Specification and Drawings, as filed, for example in each respective Claim, as filed.

New Claim 20 incorporates the subject matter of former independent Claim 1, dependent Claim 8 and the allowable subject matter of Claim 13. Claims 14-19 have been amended to depend from new Claim 20. Support for this new Claim is found throughout the Specification and Drawings, as filed, for example in Claims 1, 8 and 13, as filed.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Chase (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0136195). Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are patentably distinct from the cited reference.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate allowable dependent Claim 2, as well as amending claim 11 to make it independent by incorporating base Claim 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicant submits that amended independent claims 1 and 11, as well as the claims directly or indirectly dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited reference and are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is now believed that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. In view of these remarks, an early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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By

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